[*Note*.—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* ELECTION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform the House that the following six candidates have been nominated for election to the House Committee for the financial year 1959–60 :—

1 Sri T. Joghee Gowder.
2 ,, John Asirvatham.
3 ,, T. P. Srinivasavaradan.
4 ,, G. Krishnamoorthy.
5 Srimathi Saraswathy Pandurangam.
6 Sri E. Janakirama Mudaliar.

As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, viz., six, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the House Committee.

In addition to the above, under rule 171 (1) of the Madras Council Rules, I nominate the following two Members to be members of the said Committee :—

1 Sri L. S. Karayalar.
2 ,, A. Subramanyam.

The Deputy Chairman shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

III.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS GRAMDAN VILLAGES (REPAYMENT OF DEBTS) BILL, 1959 (L.C. BILL NO. 3 OF 1959).

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move—

'That the Madras Gramdan Villages (Repayment of Debts) Bill [a] 1959 (L.C. Bill No. 3 of 1959) be taken into consideration.'

Sir, the House is, no doubt, aware of the great Bhoodan Yagna Movement initiated by Sri Acharya Vinobh Bhave. Under his inspiration, a process of silent, bloodless revolution has been initiated in the rural areas which may ultimately result in the creation of a new social order. The Bhoodan Yagna Movement took a new turn with the Sarvodaya Sammelan held at Puri in March 1955. The movement for gifting lands in favour of the landless has logically culminated in the Gramdan or the gift of lands in favour of the village community. The House is also aware that our State has not been lagging behind the other States in respect of the Bhoodan and Gramdan Movement. So far, about 232 villages have been donated in our State for Gramdan and out of this in Madurai district alone about 203 villages have been given for Gramdan. It is expected that the example set by Madurai district will inspire other districts also to greater endeavours in behalf of this movement.

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[a] Published on pages 91–106 of Part IV-A of the Extraordinary issue of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th March 1959.